

**To:** Kovak, Brian[Kovak.Brian@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Krueger, Roy[Krueger.Roy@epa.gov]; Mitchell, Brian[Mitchell.Brian@epa.gov]  
**From:** Hayes, Scott  
**Sent:** Thur 8/13/2015 6:41:03 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

Again, I understand, agree and support. The consequence is an RM like me now has to deal with all the staff and their supervisors and defend how this is different from a community involvement person going to one of our St. Louis sites to hang door hangars routinely without medical screening or 24 hour H&S.

**From:** Kovak, Brian  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 1:25 PM  
**To:** Hayes, Scott  
**Cc:** Krueger, Roy; Mitchell, Brian  
**Subject:** Re: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

Hi Scott,

We are just making sure everyone has the medical go ahead to deploy with no hidden health issues which might put them at additional risk for field work under a high stress ER environment. Thanks for your support.

Brian

On Aug 13, 2015, at 12:47 PM, Hayes, Scott <[Hayes.Scott@epa.gov](mailto:Hayes.Scott@epa.gov)> wrote:

Ok. Brian - hopefully you have coordinated this with the 3 affected regions on this response. I fully support your position, but region 6 was asking for people to go door to door to hand out flyers working an 8 hour day, not 14. I am certain that staff do this kind of work on their normal job without medical screening, so there is an inconsistency in policy I just want to point out. Again, I agree with requiring med screening from my position.

Scott D. Hayes

Emergency Response & Removal South Branch

Region 7 Regional Response Team

U.S. EPA Region 7

913-551-7670

Sent from my iPad

On Aug 13, 2015, at 11:11 AM, Krueger, Roy <[Krueger.Roy@epa.gov](mailto:Krueger.Roy@epa.gov)> wrote:

I just forwarded your information to our Logistics guy for this response, Brian Mitchell. No medical is a no go even for the community activity. Thanks for guiding the big picture guidance!

Roy

**From:** Kovak, Brian

**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 11:00 AM

**To:** Krueger, Roy

**Subject:** RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

Roy,

Great! I talked to Howard Wilson and Dave Wynn about it earlier.

Thanks,

Brian

**From:** Krueger, Roy

**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 11:58 AM

**To:** Kovak, Brian

**Subject:** Re: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

Josh McDonald is on it

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 13, 2015, at 7:48 AM, Kovak, Brian <[Kovak.Brian@epa.gov](mailto:Kovak.Brian@epa.gov)> wrote:

Roy,

This is big problem that FOH and SHEMD need to fix immediately. The expedited medical clearance was specifically setup for quick turnaround for RSC and other EPA staff being deployed to support an ER who were not already enrolled in the medical surveillance program ( I got this program started in 2005).

They should accommodate your request within 48hrs to get this done, not 9-10 days! It's not a full physical, just a brief medical consultation and determination that someone is healthy enough to travel to a site and do basic field work not requiring respiratory protection (as I outlined to Jason). I will contact SHEMD and FOH about this. Let me know if/when they get this resolved in your region.

Thanks,

Brian

On Aug 12, 2015, at 7:24 PM, Krueger, Roy <[Krueger.Roy@epa.gov](mailto:Krueger.Roy@epa.gov)> wrote:

All,

In support of R6 we provided exactly what was requested. Current hazwoper field trained staff for anyone deployed. Where medical was required we provided people that met that requirement (sampling). Those doing community outreach are trained but may or may not have medical. I heard from my Regional WERG folks that rather than observing the sampling they will actually be doing the sampling. I'm not sure how true that is.

I provided a list of everyone we are deploying and what qualifications they have including respirator qualification to Kendra and Jason. We have established limited Logistics and Finance Sections in our Region to coordinate getting these resources sent to make sure. Any non-field people would not need medical in my opinion.

It is interesting that I had a couple of people that could have gone but needed the medical screening and when I contacted FOH the soonest we could get them would be in about 9 or 10 days. Rather than try and work around this we decided to go to our next people on our list. This situation disturbs me. If we can get people screened for an emergency deployment in a reasonable amount of time then we should discontinue this as an option since it gives false expectations. I sent my concerns to David Wynn and Josh McDonald. If FOH can't provide this service can they send out the medical screenings to a local occupational health clinic? If not, then I will look at changing employees in the OMSP from episodic to a regular scheduled frequency and will no longer use the screen program. This is unfortunate since I thought it worked really well for the Joplin Tornado in 2011.

Let me know if I can be of help.

Roy

**From:** Nakatsu, Jason  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 5:06 PM  
**To:** Gomez, Kendra; EOC Safety Officer; Woodlee, Jeff; Krueger, Roy  
**Cc:** EOC\_Deputy\_Manager;; Beasley, Craig; EOC Documentation; EOC\_Manager;; Gibson, Dave; Wilson, Howard  
**Subject:** RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

R8 is ok and we are good with field staff in training and OMSP as our folks know better. Im talking about non field office staff and in the original email it states "all employees"...

**From:** Gomez, Kendra  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 3:46 PM  
**To:** Nakatsu, Jason; EOC Safety Officer; Woodlee, Jeff; Krueger, Roy  
**Cc:** EOC\_Deputy\_Manager;; Beasley, Craig; EOC Documentation; EOC\_Manager;; Gibson, Dave; Wilson, Howard  
**Subject:** RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

Field staff.

**From:** Nakatsu, Jason  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 4:41 PM  
**To:** Gomez, Kendra; EOC Safety Officer; Woodlee, Jeff; Krueger, Roy  
**Cc:** EOC\_Deputy\_Manager,; Beasley, Craig; EOC Documentation;  
EOC\_Manager,; Gibson, Dave; Wilson, Howard  
**Subject:** RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety  
Training, and Medical Surveillance

Were these folks field staff or office staff?

**From:** Gomez, Kendra  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 3:17 PM  
**To:** Nakatsu, Jason; EOC Safety Officer; Woodlee, Jeff; Krueger, Roy  
**Cc:** EOC\_Deputy\_Manager,; Beasley, Craig; EOC Documentation;  
EOC\_Manager,; Gibson, Dave; Wilson, Howard  
**Subject:** RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety  
Training, and Medical Surveillance

The same situation happened to me. People were deployed on Saturday and I wasn't notified until Monday. I've been trying to get a current listing of R6 personnel deployed in support of the Gold King Mine spill, and I haven't been provided one. I've escalated this up to my Senior Management. I'm basically vetting people based upon financial Sit Reps.

I know of two R6 employees who do not meet their H&S requirements. When I found out on Monday that these employees deployed Saturday, I vetted them and determined they were not cleared for deployment. I informed the REOC via email that they need to be returned to the Regional Office. Nothing has been done to return them to the RO.

# Kendra C. Gomez

Kendra C. Gomez

R6 Health & Safety Manager

1445 Ross Ave, Ste 1200

6MD-OO

Dallas, TX 75202

Work: (214) 665-7225

Cell: (214) 205-7643

**From:** Nakatsu, Jason

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 3:58 PM

**To:** Gomez, Kendra; EOC Safety Officer; Woodlee, Jeff; Krueger, Roy

**Cc:** EOC\_Deputy\_Manager;; Beasley, Craig; EOC Documentation;  
EOC\_Manager;; Gibson, Dave; Wilson, Howard

**Subject:** RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

Kendra,

We are doing the same per their routine job functions and depending on the type of work being done they need different field H&S training. What I meant by my email was to make it clear that positions such as Finance section chief or an attorney called out to look at data do not need medical surveillance per their routine job function. The other interesting piece is that folk were deployed prior to me being called or informed of the IMT stand up.

**From:** Gomez, Kendra

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 1:48 PM

**To:** Nakatsu, Jason; EOC Safety Officer; Woodlee, Jeff; Krueger, Roy

**Cc:** EOC\_Deputy\_Manager;; Beasley, Craig; EOC Documentation;  
EOC\_Manager;; Gibson, Dave; Wilson, Howard

**Subject:** RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

Here in Region 6, I'm mandating that all employees either have medical surveillance (due to their routine job functions) or they received a pre-screening exam by FOH. You are right, they do not have medical surveillance, but if they don't, they at least need to have a pre-screening exam by FOH prior to deployment. Also, all R6 personnel responding to field activities, must have, at a minimum, the 24hr EPA H&S training available through Skillport, depending upon the type of work to be done. Most of my employees are required to have HAZWOPER due to the fact that they are conducting activities under the scope of 29 CFR 1910.120.

## Kendra C. Gomez

Kendra C. Gomez

R6 Health & Safety Manager

1445 Ross Ave, Ste 1200

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Work: (214) 665-7225

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**From:** Nakatsu, Jason

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 1:30 PM

**To:** EOC Safety Officer; Gomez, Kendra; Woodlee, Jeff; Krueger, Roy

**Cc:** EOC\_Deputy\_Manager;; Beasley, Craig; EOC Documentation;  
EOC\_Manager;; Gibson, Dave; Wilson, Howard

**Subject:** RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

David,

We can discuss at a later point in time but for R8 not ALL of the responders need to have medical surveillance and H&S training.

**From:** Wynn, David **On Behalf Of** EOC Safety Officer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 11:57 AM  
**To:** Nakatsu, Jason; Gomez, Kendra; Woodlee, Jeff; Krueger, Roy  
**Cc:** EOC\_Deputy\_Manager,; Beasley, Craig; EOC Documentation; EOC\_Manager,  
**Subject:** Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

SHEMP managers,

Thank you for your efforts!

This is a reminder that all employees who are responding must have completed

their H&S training requirements and be enrolled in medical surveillance, if required.

If you are having any difficulty fulfilling these requirements, please advise.

Thanks,

David Wynn, CIH, CSP, CHMM, CSHM, CET, ARM

HQ EOC Safety

(202) 250-8908